The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

August 2012 Volume 8, Issue 6 © 2012 Radio Club of Tacoma

From the Editor

Greetings to all club members and welcome to the August 2012 edition of The Logger's Bark. It appears that typical summer weather has finally set in with the absence of precipitation. This gives us a great opportunity to take care of some of those maintenance chores that may affect radio performance

Do any of the feed lines, guy wires, or other lines need replacing on your antennas? How about branches that have grown over the last year and are now encroaching on parts of your tree-strung antennas.

Take a look at your outside coax. Was there any damage caused by last years horrendous ice storm that you haven't noticed? Cabling pulled loose from insulators or cable clips if it runs along the eaves of hour house?

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As this hits the press, there are only a few days left before the annual W7DK Hamfest. Not only is it an opportunity to buy or sell needed equipment, but an opportunity to visit and enjoy the fellowship with other hams. Club members are needed for many of the jobs, so get 'hold of Larry KD4VOM if you can pitch in - email hamfest@w7dk.org More info on the hamfest on Page 7.

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Finally, please take note of the upcoming Antique Radio Swapmeet, to be held in Shoreline on August 19th. Lots of neat stuff to see, to add to your collection, or to finally find the perfect gift for the hard to buy for spouse or others. See the Swapmeet brochure on Page 6. ***Note: the Sears Silvertone R1061 pictured below was your humble editor's birthday present to his XYL. This pre-1941 AM Radio was expertly repaired and refinished by Rich KR7W.*

Hope to see you at the W7DK Hamfest on August 11th.
-73 - W7MWF Mike

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RCT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6 June 2012

The 6 June 2012 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. Vice President Casey Hicks, WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:
Vice President Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member Glen Galati A7BOJ
Board Member Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member James Mendenhall KE6WHN

Minutes:
The minutes of the 2 May 2012 Board meeting as coordinated and corrected, were approved without objection.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: The passing of Chuck Souter KA7HJN was noted, and it is reported that Nick K7MO is recovering.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: KD4VOM reports the following correspondence;
PO Box Invoice
Advanced Stream Broadband Service Invoice
Several Membership and ARRL renewals
Phone Bill
QSL Cards from the Portland Bureau
Chase notice of fee waiver

TREASURER'S REPORT: Provided separately by e-mail

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
****Membership: Karl K7KHJ** Current membership stands at 270 paid up members
The Membership Rosters and mailing labels have been printed; envelopes purchased and should be mailed soon
****Library Report**: **Doug AD7AV** presented the mid-year RCT Library Report.
Doug reports that the Library has acquired the 2012 ARRL Handbook, and Antenna Book; one specialty item on Straight Keys and spent $ 130.00 out of their $ 435.00 2012 approved budget. They plan to acquire new items to support the Club's EMCOM activities.
They have evaluated donations in coordination with the Property Management Committee, culled items from the library and electronic catalog and moved several items to manual collection.
They are holding conversations with the IT and Web committee heads to discuss computer needs and possibility of a Library Search shortcut on the new website.
The committee is exploring fair use copyright issues relative to our manuals collection.
They are working on a secure/locking area for important books and documents
They expect to highlight library holdings through periodic (book) reports (or displays) to the membership
And work on the Club archives
****Repeater Committee:**
The crystals for the 147.38 repeater have been received.
The 145.21 repeater at the Channel 28 site remains in service.
****Property Management:**
The club's Membership property auction has been approved, information distributed and posted to the Club Bulletin Board. Silent auction bids will be opened on 16 June.
****Equipment loan ad hoc committee: Bruce WE7P**
The committee presented the draft RCT Equipment Loan Policy and Procedure document at the last Board meeting for review.
A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the RCT Equipment Loan Policy and Procedure presented by the Committee.
****Emergency Operations Plan: KD4VOM**
Larry Watson KD4VOM reports that scheduling problems and vacations have delayed the planned RCT EmComm All Hands meeting. Work is underway to establish a date and location for the meeting.
****Doug AD7AV** asked for recommendations on Emergency Operations documents which might be included in our Library Collection to support the Club's Emergency Operations efforts.
****Training: Technician Class** 9-10 June Information on the W7DK.org website.
****Field Day Planning:** Al N7OMS reported that the recent Field Day Planning meeting went reasonably well.
ARES Participation: Al has been unable to contact Ken N7ELF to see if ARES might wish to set up a table at Field Day to promote their operations. (Karl K7KHJ reports

that Ken has given notice that he is resigning as the Pierce County ARES District 5 Emergency Coordinator). There was a discussion at an earlier ARES meeting about participating in the RCT Field day, but no decision was made.
Al is looking for someone to take the **Saturday GOTA operation**. Bob AD7LJ has offered to bring the state Emergency Communications van. Unless Al gets a firm commitment he will notify Bob that he doesn't need to bring the unit.
The Field Day NTS Traffic message: **Randy WB4SPB** tabled a question about the required Section Manager message sent through the NTS system. It requires a count of ARES members participating in Field Day. We should be able to get that by using John Clarke's ARES Roster and our Field Day sign in sheet.
Al is planning to be at the clubhouse on Wednesday June 20th to assist Jan in preparations for the Field Day Kitchen
****Kirkreit Picnic: Casey WY7V** Reports all is on track for this weekend's picnic at Spanaway Park.
****Facilities Remodel Committee: – Al N7OMS**
Al reports that paint is needed. The budget has been previously approved.
Simmons room Blinds are on order.
Al also asked about how we plan to replace the Club's lending library.
****Operating Station Downstairs: Casey WY7V** asked about what the plans might be for an operating position downstairs… Al noted that the Remodel project is limited to providing the room, connectivity, etc.

Hearty Congratulations - First Place Winner
RCT Member Joe Lester K7ZG
Hidden Transmitter Hunt, July 12, 2012
See article and photo on Page 12

****RCT Information Technology Committee:–**
Randy Myers WB4SPB reports progress has been made on several items, the inventory and evaluation of current hardware and software. The team has solicited a review and verification the requirements and goals before completing their recommendations. There were no responses from the Board. Larry KD4VOM was tasked to get a message out to the appropriate members to solicit their inputs to the Current and Future Requirements section of the Information and Technology Committee's 2 May document. Randy discussed the needs for **off-site backup** and suggested the Clubhouse garage lockup might be acceptable. The gist of the discussion that followed indicates that would be an acceptable solution.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
RCT Bylaws Revision: Larry KD4VOM
The Bylaws draft has been updated and provided to the Board and membership (via the W7DK.org website) for review and comment. Thanks especially to Joe K7ZG for his work in making it cleaner and more readable as well as significant structuring to align the Club's Bylaws with accepted practices and Robert's Rules.
There have been recommendations and comments from some, and time for others to be considered.
Larry KD4VOM will draft a message to all hands setting a time frame for the Club and the Board to accept and process recommendations and comments relative to the proposed Bylaws revision draft.

NEW BUSINESS:
Collins Radio Filter: Al N7OMS tabled the Museum and IT group request to acquire a 500 Hz long wave filter to be installed in the Museum's Collins 75A4 Receiver to increase the receivers CW capabilities at a cost of $ 225.00. ***A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase the filter for installation in the Collins 75A4 Museum receiver.***
ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

RCT General Meetings

June 23, 2012 General Meeting Highlights

The 13 June General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Self introductions were completed.

Introductions: Harry W7HSA introduced his daughter visiting from Alaska.

Illness or Silent Key:

Dr. Del Kohler W7JG, and W7HSA's XYL Bernice services pending.

Nick Winter K7MO is recovering well and getting around.

Committee Reports:

***VE Report**: John Clarke AC7WW

Thirty nine elements were graded by seven Volunteer Examiners Tuesday June 12th at the Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse. Results of the session were 12 new Technicians, one General and four Extras. Three candidates failed to get an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Steve, AD7VL	Jan, K7HTU
Jon, AD7AW	Rich, KK7VH
Joe, K7ZG	Stephen, AD7AB

***RCT Picnic**:. Casey WY7V reports it was cold, but we had a good time, Steve AD7VL, Maury W7OT, Diane W7SIM, and others helped make the picnic a success…There were 41 that signed in.

Announcements:

New W7DK.org Website: Up and running*

***Rookie Roundup:** Joe K7ZG reported on a follow up message from the ARRL with a certificate of achievement for the Radio Club of Tacoma for W7DK participants KF7DXB; KF7SOB; W7MWF; W7XTZ who achieved first place, multi-operator category. Individual certificates were presented to all the team.

***Bylaws Revision:** The process is underway and the proposed changes are posted to the website for your review.

***IT Requirements:** The IT Team has completed their initial report and circulated a statement of requirements and priorities. Randy WB4SBP is seeking feedback and comments prior to the next Board Meeting.

***June 27 Meeting:** The Next meeting will be held at the BATES Technical College Mohler campus. The session will include a short meeting, and a tour of the College's broadcast video production studios as well as meeting with the College's K7BTC Student Amateur Radio Club.

Program: The Last Great Field Day video

Door Prize: A 2001/2002 Repeater Directory was won by Sue Schub KF7SOW

Raffle Prize: A headset was won by Worth W7WG

June 27, 2012 General Meeting Highlights

The 27 June General Membership meeting was held at the Bates Technical College Mohler campus.

Introductions: Self introductions were completed.

Several spouses and around seven members of the Bates Student Radio Club K7BTC attended this meeting

Illness or Silent Key:

Nick Winter K7MO is recovering well and getting around.

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Maury W7OT reported that Karl K7KHJ and Larry KD4VOM were working to get vendor letters and other Hamfest collateral assembled and mailed.

Announcements

FLDIGI Program: Joe Winkler queried the group for advice on configuring the FLDIGI computer program.

Program: This special meeting was held at the Bates Technical College Mohler campus and included an interesting, thorough and educational tour of the facility which was led by the Staff and Students from Bates Technical College.

The attendees were split into several separate groups for a tour of the studios and facilities.

W7DK Hamfest Needs Your Help
August 11, 2012
Spanaway, Washington
To Volunteer
Please Contact Larry KD4VOM

July 11, 2012 General Meeting Highlights

The 11 July General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building

Introductions: Self introductions were completed. There were several new calls, and visitors/ including new member Don Hughes KI6CCG and his XYL Coral.

Committee Reports:

***RCT Picnic**:. Casey WY7V reports it was cold and wet, and polled the group to determine if moving the Picnic to July would be a better choice. The response was positive….

***Hamfest**: Larry KD4VOM reported on the upcoming Hamfest at Bethel Jr. High on 11 August 2012. He explained the schedule of events and the need for volunteers to take on many assignments. Signup sheets were passed out.

***Bylaws Revision:** The process is underway and the proposed changes are posted to the website for review and comment.

***VE Report**: John Clarke AC7WW
The test session on Tuesday July 10th started out slow. For the first three quarters of an hour before the session started we had only one candidate, and then another candidate came through the door. The eight VE's present thought it was going to be a quick session. Suddenly six more candidates entered the Radio Club of Tacoma club house for a total of eight candidates. A total of 15 elements were graded with nine being passed.
Results of the session were: four Technicians, one candidate passed element two and three to become a General and one candidate passed element two, three and four to leave as an Extra. Two candidates did not earn an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort:

Joe, W7RQ	Steve, AD7VL
Leonard, KA7NWF	Jan, K7HTU
Jon, AD7AW	Rich, KK7VH
Bob, KE7WPK	

We will have a test session at the RCT Hamfest Saturday August 11. The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday August 14, 2012.

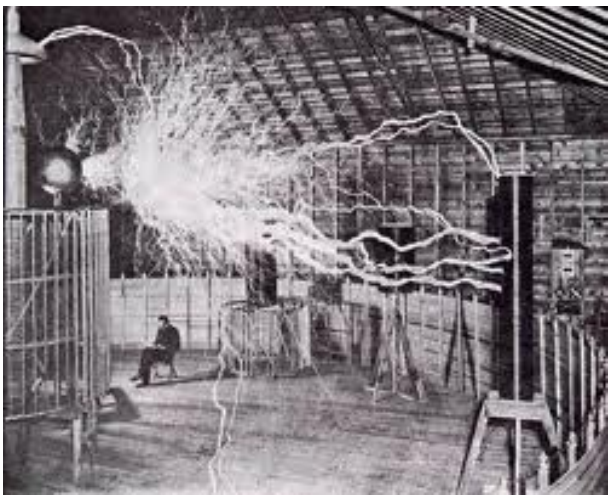
Programs:

***Field Day Video: Produced by Bill AD7QI**

This 10 minute video of part of this year's Field Day was put together by our very own Wild Bill AD7QI…

***Nikola Tesla, Master of Lightning PBS Video**

This outstanding documentary of the forgotten life and genius of Nikolai Tesla, father of the alternating current generator and many other advancements in electronics was shown… We only had time for about half of the program which will continue at a later meeting.



Show and Tell:

Jim K7SSS brought in and explained the new Elecraft K3 QRP radio he assembled from a kit.

Joe K7ZG displayed and described the new lithium polymer battery he's using with his highly organized QRP field operations kit.

Door Prize: a Genuine Antique metal box speaker

Raffle Prize: A 70 VHF RF amplifier was picked up by Maury W7OT

Sunday, August 19, 2012
Shoreline, Washington

ANTIQUE RADIO
SWAP MEET
See detailed flyer on Page 6

July 25, 2012 General Meeting Highlights

The 25 July General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building

Introductions: Self introductions were completed. There were several out of town and former club member visitors.

Committee Reports:

***Hamfest**: Larry KD4VOM provided an update on the upcoming Hamfest at Bethel Jr. High on 11 August 2012. There is significant construction ongoing there. The construction manager indicated they should be completed by August 11th but recommended we check back around the first of August. Maury W7OT has made arrangements for a food vendor for Friday and Saturday.

There will be a Hamfest meeting at the Clubhouse at 1:30 pm this Saturday and all are invited to participate and share ideas.

***Bylaws Revision:** The proposed changes are posted to the website for review and comment. Expect a vote in the October timeframe.

Announcements:

***W7DK at the Fair**: Steve AD7AB and Joe K7ZG have the signup calendar on the W7DK.org website. Please find a time to serve a tour. You will receive a package with free tickets and parking to a great opportunity to serve Amateur Radio and enjoy the Fair yourself.

***Training – Technician Class**: The next Technician's license class is scheduled for 6/7 October, Contact Steve AD7AB or the website for further information.

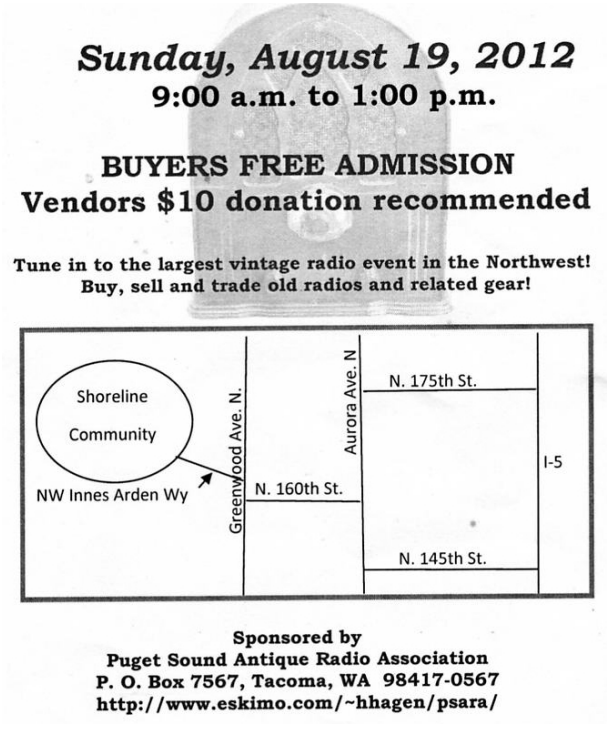
***Tacoma ARDF International Transmitter Hunt**: KR7W reported on the Point Defiance ARDF Hunt, and explained the scoring system used to select a winner in this year's event. An Acme Hand Crafted Yagi trophy was presented to the winner Joe Lester K7ZG who found all nine of the hidden transmitters in the shortest time…Congratulations to Joe.

Program: Nikola Tesla, Master of Lightning part II PBS Video

Part II of this outstanding documentary of the forgotten life and genius of Nikolai Tesla, father of the alternating current generator and many other achievements in electronics was shown.

Door Prize: An Electric Circuits reference manual was won by Paul KF7PFU

Raffle Prize: An Icom HT TR90A was won by Mike W7XTZ


Sunday, August 19, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
BUYERS FREE ADMISSION
Vendors $10 donation recommended
Tune in to the largest vintage radio event in the Northwest!
Buy, sell and trade old radios and related gear!
Shoreline Community
NW Innes Arden Wy
Greenwood Ave. N.
Aurora Ave. N
N. 175th St.
N. 160th St.
N. 145th St.
I-5
Sponsored by
Puget Sound Antique Radio Association
P. O. Box 7567, Tacoma, WA 98417-0567
http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/

Mark your calendar for the Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest at Bethel Junior High School in Spanaway. Admission is $5.00 at the door - kids under 12 free with paying adult. VE License exams at 10:00 AM.

2012 Radio Club of Tacoma HamFest

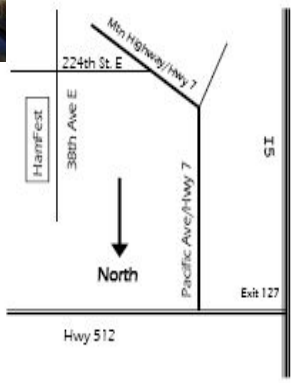
Amateur Radio Excellence Since 1916

Phone: (253) 843-2190
Website: www.w7dk.org
Email: HamFest@W7DK.org

The Radio Club of Tacoma HamFest Information...

Location

Bethel Junior High School
22001 38th Avenue East
Spanaway, WA 98387



Dates and Times

Saturday, August 11th, 2012
9:00am - 1:00pm

Friday:	3:00-7:30pm	Early Vendor Setup
	4:00-7:00pm	Vendor snacks
Saturday	6:00-8:30am	Same-Day Vendor Setup
	9:00am	Doors Open to Public
	10:00am	VE License Exams

General Information

Plenty of FREE Parking
Handicap Parking Available
Concession Stand
Talk-In Frequencies:
Repeater: 147.280 + pl 103.5
Simplex: 147.500
Free RV Parking Available
Self Contained Only - Please Reserve Ahead!

Admission

$5.00 at the door
(12 and under Free w/Paying Adult)

Activities

Consignment Sales
Not enough items for your own table? Sell your items at the *"Country Store!"*
Demos and Special Interest Lectures
Commercial Displays
Door Prizes
GRAND Prize Drawing

Contact Us...

General Info: Larry - KD4VOM (253) 843-2190
Vendor Res: Linda AB7YL (253) 845-3487
VE Testing: John - AC7WW (253) 475-5854
Email: HamFest@W7DK.org

SHOW and TELL by: Rich kr7w

This month…

A HF Antenna for PTP

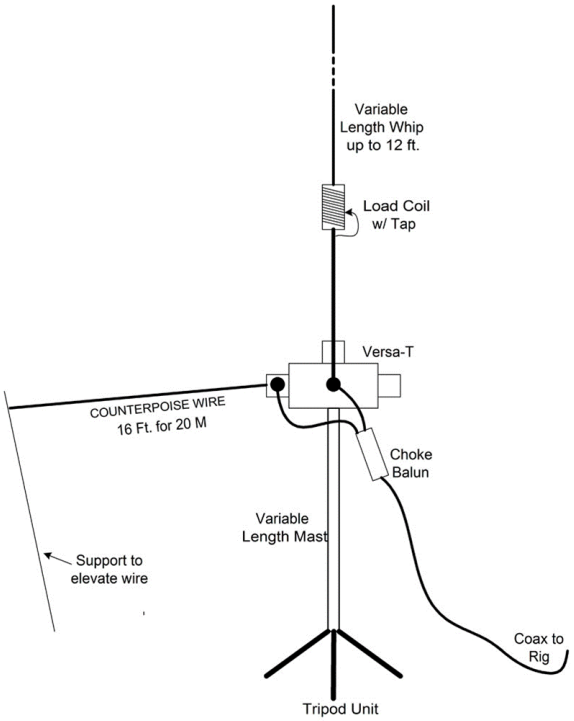
At the Radio Club a few Saturdays ago I heard Joe asking some of the regular attendees (aka self-proclaimed experts) for antenna ideas for when he goes to car campgrounds with his tent and wants to set up his Yaesu FT-897 with 20 watts output while running on internal batteries, on the picnic table– aka ***PTP*** (picnic table portable). After listening carefully to Joe and the many experts discussion... I was able to figure out that Joe wants to operate on 20 meters using CW, SSB and maybe PSK-31.

This article is about the Expert's suggestions and what became of them for Joe's PTP use.

Expert A suggests that Joe erect some kind of mast next to his picnic table because there may not be any trees nearby to support the standard 'dipole in the trees' kind of antenna. The mast will support the center of an inverted Vee dipole 32.5 feet, from end to end, to be in the middle of the band– say 14.150 MHz which provides a usable SWR for CW and PSK at the low end… as well as the General class SSB portion of the band. Our Expert A suggests that Joe use coax cable for the feed line. "the bigger diameter the better, you don't want to loose any of your low power signal in the wimpy small coax, do you?"

Mast suggestions to support the center of the antenna ranged from fiberglass push up Jackite and windsock masts, to heavy steel Radio Shack push up TV antenna masts that were popular 25 years ago.

Expert B was going to insist that Joe use a dipole but the Experts C, D, E, and F reminded him that there may not be any trees around for support. "The next best thing", B proclaims, "Is a portable antenna made specifically for your situation". How 'bout the **Buddipole**? The Buddipole comes with all kinds of options including a folding tripod that supports a mast that goes high in the air. At the top of the mast is a gizmo called the **Versa-T**. This where you attach the elements of a dipole, vertical, and the coax feed line with BALUN option. The dipole elements are not going to be 16 ft long for 20 meters… they will have loading coils for 20, 30, and the 40 meter band. Operating on 20 meters you'd place a jumper wire at the 20 meter mark on the coil, test your SWR, and adjust the telescoping elements as needed.



Simple Schematic of Buddipole configured as a Vertical Dipole. (This drawing is not to scale).

Expert B also added that a lot of Buddipole users configure it as a Vertical Dipole. "How's that work?", Joe asks. It's a vertical whip element with a loading coil called the **BuddiStick**, and is screwed into the Versa-T unit– which becomes one of the dipole's poles. Then an elevated counterpoise wire is attached to the Versa-T and plays out horizontally to be the second pole of the an-

tenna. The counterpoise wire is supposed to be elevated off of the ground at its end for best effectiveness. And if you want to run your radio at 100 watts the Buddipole equipment will handle that. "Well that's all very interesting. The Buddipole is just what I need! How much does it cost?"Joe asks.

Expert B says that the Buddipole Deluxe package costs $400 which includes the tripod, mast, load coils, feed line, and carrying case. And if the Buddistick option is added then another $139 is spent. The parts can be purchased separately to build an antenna just the way you want it configured, so you may not have to pay $539 to get just what you want.

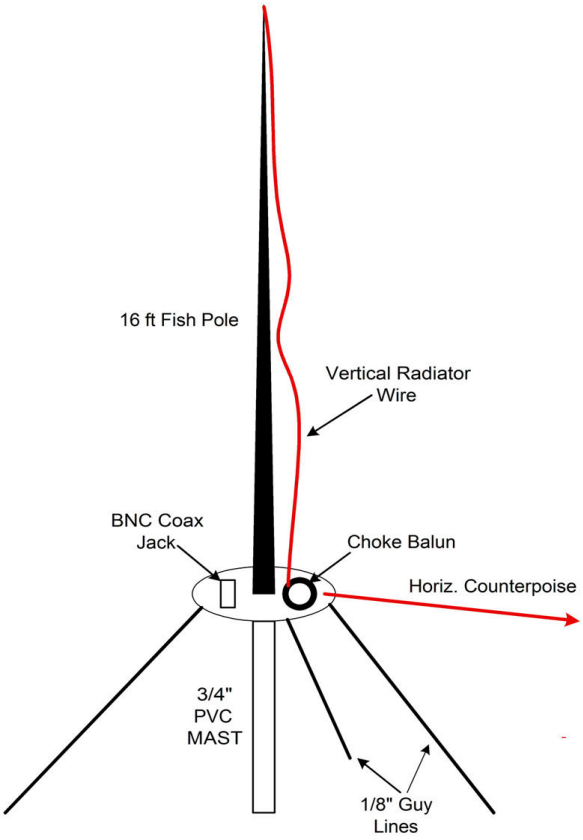
Joe remarked something like, "Wow! That's a lot of bucks. I am going to figure how to build an effective and easy to set up and take down vertical dipole for way less money".

As we walked out of the Radio Club together that day… Joe asked me for help on building a vertical dipole for his PTP station.

Back at the Lab: I don't like antennas that are 'loaded' to make them longer as I think they are inefficient, like screwdriver antennas on vehicles. Luckily Joe only wants to operate on 20 meters. Stringing out a 16 ft counterpoise wire should be no problem… but getting a 16 ft vertical radiator in the air without trees is the challenge.

In the past I have used a 16 ft telescoping Crappie fishing pole to create the Salt Water Vertical that has been in service for many years at the annual Freeze Your Buns Off QRP winter field day… this antenna worked well and is pretty durable. I had an extra Crappie pole left over from a failed antenna effort… so I decided to use it for Joe's antenna. The 16 ft pole collapses down to 36 inches, which is not too large to fit into the camping equipment.

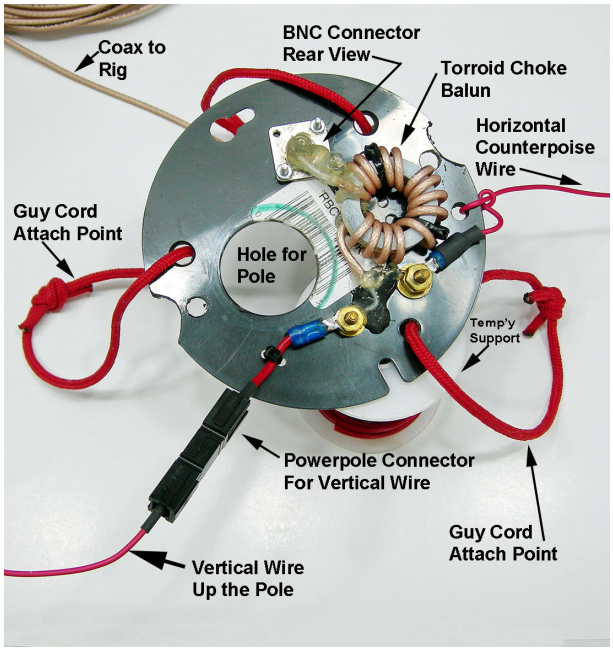
The third prototype evolved and this is what I came up with:**Cut n Test:** Once the glue



The 3rd Prototype: The Telescoping fish pole nests over a 4 inch piece of 3/4" PVC glued into a barrel coupling to keep if from sliding down the rest of the pipe mast. Between the barrel coupling and the fish pole sits the 'BALUN plate', made from a plastic round electrical box cover. A 1 1/8" hole allows the PVC pipe to pass thru the balun plate. The weight of the fish pole holds it together. Atop the box cover is the Balun choke made from a small torriod core wound with RG-174 coax cable. One end of the choke coax connects to brass screws as tie points for the antenna wires. The other end of the coax attaches to a female BNC connector where the feed line to the rig connects.

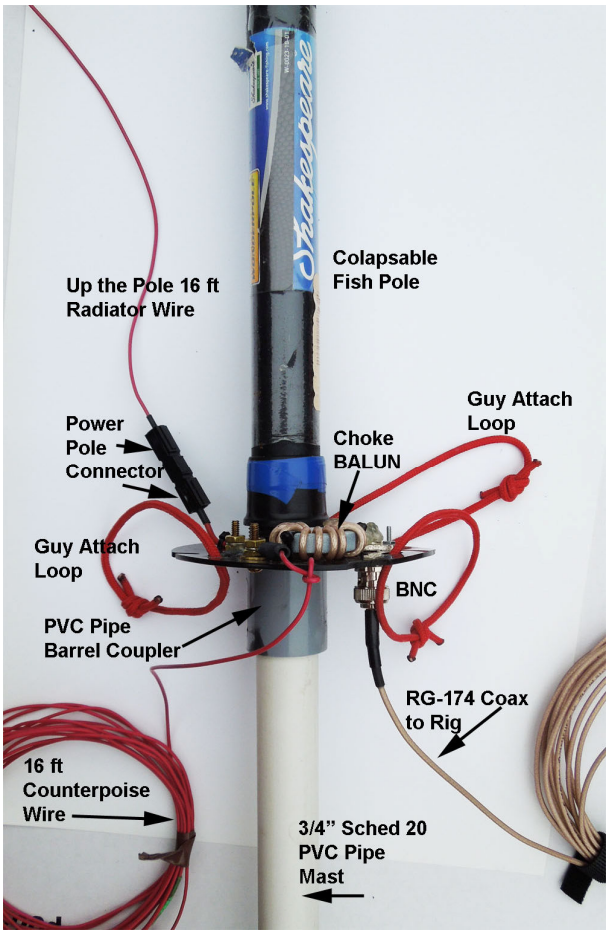
dried on the 3rd prototype… I set it up in our small backyard. Assembly was pretty easy-peasy. First plant the 3/4 PVC pipe mast– depending on the situation… someone may need to hold it up. Then slip the Balun Plate over the top of the mast. If the mast needs guys… then attach them to the three loops on the Balun Plate. When the mast is stable then expand the fish pole to its 16 ft length. Tie the vertical radiator wire to the eye at the top of the pole with a simple knot. Lift the pole in the air and set it down on the 4" protruding pipe atop the Balun Plate. Attach the

radiator wires Power Pole connector to the connector on the Balun plate. Lastly extend out the counterpoise radiator wire horizontally as high off the ground as possible (I used a trekking pole pierced into our yard).



BALUN Plate details: Plastic Electrical Box cover is the base which sorta takes the place of the Versa-T and feed line BALUN in the Buddipole antenna system. The 16 ft Counterpoise Wire is permanently attached. The Up the Pole radiator wire is removable via an Anderson Power Pole Connector makes set up easier. Hot melt craft glue is used to secure wires that might be snagged. The coax cable from the BNC connector to the rig is 10 ft of RG-174 equivalent. Parachute cord is cut n knotted to create loops for easily attaching guy cords.

I connected the Swiss Army Knife of QRP radios, my trusty Yaesu FT-817 to the antenna. The radio's built in SWR meter reads no bars in the CW portion of 20 meters. 14.250 MHz indicates one SWR bar in the display. I shortened the vertical radiator wire 4 inches and retested. Now, no SWR bars at 14.060 or at 14.300 MHz. This antenna seems pretty flat across the entire 20 meter band. I connected this antenna to my big Icom HF transceiver and transmitted 20 watts at the test frequencies. The Icom's very accurate SWR meter indicates little or no reflected power. Listening to signals and comparing to my higher in the air wire station antenna provides expected results: Louder on the wire antenna, probably because it is higher in the air.



Assembly Details: A 4" piece of white PVC pipe is glued to the top of the gray colored Barrel Coupler. The Balun plate slides down the 4" pipe then the fish pole slides to rest on top of the Balun Plate. The weight of the fish pole holds it all together.

To the Field: Even though Joe plans to use this antenna at a car campground… I convinced him to take a hike in the woods and set up a station. Just for funzies… I chose a SOTA (Summits On The Air, remember last month's Show n Tell article?) peak.

After a couple of hours hike in the woods near Snoqualmie Pass we arrived at the top of Mt Catherine at 5100 ft. I brought my FT-817 and a Lithium Ion battery. Joe brought his new antenna. Joe easily set up the mast by strapping it to a 5 ft high scrub tree growing out of the rocks. He easily assembled

the parts and lastly strung the horizontal counterpoise wire out and attached it to a bush 4 ft off the ground.

Even though a big CME from the sun hit earth that very day… Calling "CQ SOTA" on 14.061 brought in six QSOs. They were waiting for us, it seems. We heard no activity in the SSB part of the 20 meter band– musta been the CME interference. Just goes to show that CW (even at 5 watts) is the best way to make contact.

Joe plans on taking his FT-897 and his new antenna to Mt Rainier National Park to use at the White River Campground. Next month he will report back on his success.

Here's my FT-817 Set up on Mt Catherine. The red bag contains the antenna tuner, which is not needed with Joe's Antenna. The upside down carrying box serves as a rig stand. The key and mic are on the rock just below the case. The blue area in the upper left is Lake Keechelus, just east of Snoqualmie Pass.

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

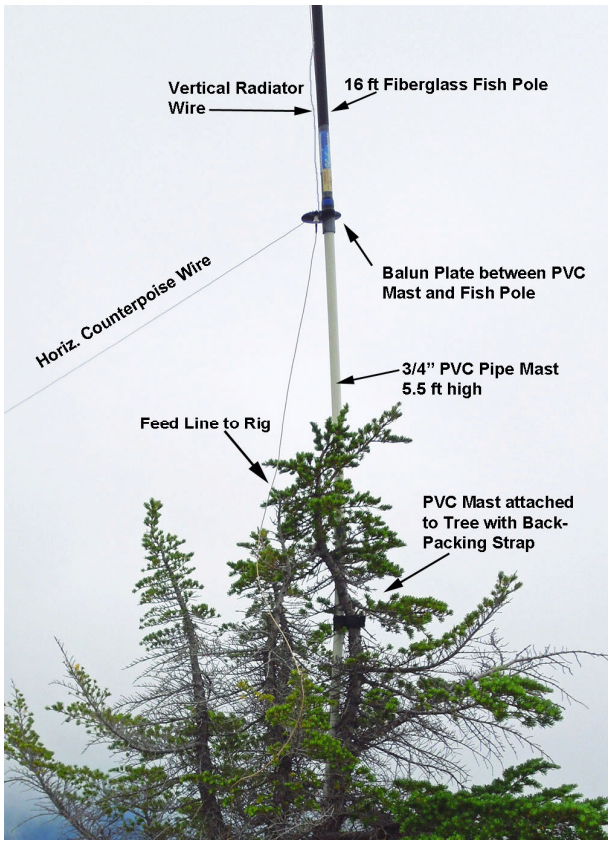
needs your donations…

IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader

1/8" Paracord guys ready to use if needed. S-biner clips to attach to Balun Plate guy loops… 3/8" wooden dowel rope tensioners just incase.


Vertical Radiator Wire
16 ft Fiberglass Fish Pole
Balun Plate between PVC Mast and Fish Pole
Horiz. Counterpoise Wire
3/4" PVC Pipe Mast 5.5 ft high
Feed Line to Rig
PVC Mast attached to Tree with Back-Packing Strap

This annotated foto shows the antenna set up at Mt Catherine. No guys were needed to stabilize the mast this time. YMMV.

ARDF Champion Revealed

by Jim Olsen, Barkie Cub Reporter

On July 7, 2012, Club member Rich KR7W hosted a hidden transmitter hunt at Tacoma's Pt. Defiance Park. ARDFers began their hunt for nine transmitters from the Ft. Nisqually History Museum picnic area. There were transmitters for beginners, intermediate, and experienced hunters. 5 of the transmitters were the 'international' type where each is on the same frequency but on at different times. The difficulty is that each one is on for one minute then off for four minutes. 4 minutes is an awfully long time wait if you think you are really close to finding it. Also these transmitters are low power, 23 mW output… so they cant be heard from all locations.

The remaining four transmitters are on their own discrete frequency and output at least 1 watt. Most of the time these are easier to find.

About 15 hunters showed up. Folks came from far away as Seattle and Pt. Angeles. At least 3 hunters had equipment trouble. Murphy? Complacency? Two hunters were absolute beginners who found two transmitters each.

Club members who turned in score sheets are:

Name/Call	#Xmtrs Found	Points
Bob K7MXE	4	56
Alan N7OMS	8	72
Jim KE7PVZ	5	80
Joe K7ZG	9	173

It is remarkable that Joe won because he used a homebrew ARDF active attenuator and a handy talkie as compared to some other hunters who use the commercially made VK Sniffer receiver. Of course extra points are given for Active Attenuators. Joe found two of the three Bonus Coupons that were attached to transmitters for the first hunter to find. Joe commented that it was near the end of the hunt and he was just about to find the last international transmitter (off for 4 minutes). There was ten seconds left for it to be on and some passer-byers asked Joe what he was doing. Being polite, Joe spent the important ten seconds explaining. Four minutes is a long time to wait for the transmitter to come back on.

Another hunter that stood out was Jim KE7PVZ, aka Papa Victor Zulu, who brought in a Bonus Coupon and found the most difficult transmitter of the lot.

The next Tacoma hunt is scheduled for sometime in September (not Salmon Run weekend). This hunt will provide 5 discrete frequency transmitters to find. Each transmitter will be on for 35 seconds and off from 35 to 60 seconds or longer. Since these transmitters are higher power… then they can be hidden further away from the start location and still be easily heard by all hunters. Plan on at least one of these transmitters to be a walk in the woods workout.

Information on ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) can be found at the club website, www.kr7w.org, www.homingin.com, and Google.

Joe, K7ZG accepted the coveted 'Golden Yagi' award for his stellar win at the Tacoma ARDF Annual Meet. Joe says he is going to be more casual at the next hunt. Jim Olsen foto.

Got Old 2 Meter Hand Held Radios?

That are no longer working and you are saving them for a miracle cure? Instead of waiting... donate them to the Amateur Radio Direction Finding cause - to become Bunnies, Foxes, or Hidden-Ts.

So, if your HT (without PL) has a bad battery or missing parts... the ARDF effort would like to have it. Contact Rich KR7W for more info.

A big thanks to those who have already donated their old HT.

Hey, every (almost) Sunday, from maybe Noon to 3 pm… K6KPH is on 14.050.000 MCs. Nice Morse operators there. To me, it is the Mecca of Morse Code Ham Radio. The photo to the right is one of the transmitters at K6KPH, this one is for KSM, for Shore to Ship service. It is a 1942 Press Wireless Shortwave transmitter. It runs 15KW idling along, very TURBO.

The broom handle gizmo hanging from the cabinet is the "Chicken Stick"… which is used to ground out power wires inside… when the transmitter has been shut off and the engineer wants to work on it. Like they say at Tacoma Power, "It's not Dead until it's Grounded".

Photo and info de Rich KR7W

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x @ w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Casey Hicks WY7V email to wy7v @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj @ w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson, N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org
James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to ke6whn @ w7dk.org
Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to ka7boj @ w7dk.org
Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to w7dk-news @ earthlink.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma…
Send articles to: w7dk-news @ earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

August 2012 Events

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .